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PR/MEDIA CONSULTANCY**

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## **EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP ON ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NATION BUILDING**



**CATER AND MERGER SEMINAR.... “changing the way you think”**

## **EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP ON ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NATION BUILDING**

### **Overview:**

Government Chairmen and Administrations are under increasing pressure to deliver more for less. The pressures are limitless: reduced Federal and States Allocations; urgent call for improved local services; cry for modernisation, reform and performance; and agitation for widen participation and local engagement. It appears that the solution to these problems is

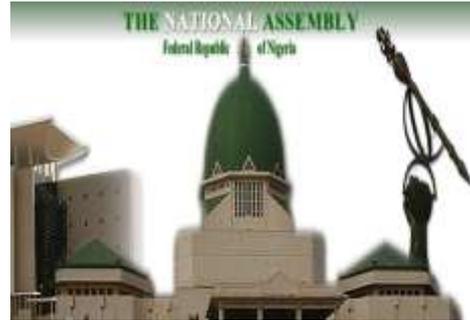
elusive. Local Governments in Nigeria now need to think afresh and look for opportunity to learn from the best in class – from local authorities in the United Kingdom.

This programme offers a unique opportunity for Nigerian local government chairmen, secretary to the local governments, councillors and leading policy makers to hear and learn first-hand from some of the most senior local authority administrators in the UK. They will explain what strategies they have employed to increase their internally generated revenue; how they introduced the new idea of Shared Services and Participatory Budget.

This highly practical workshop offers insight into key contemporary initiatives here in the UK. There will be facilitated development sessions, speakers looking at the theory and practice of modern local government, and visits to projects and initiatives with representatives of local authorities, community groups and local agencies.

**After the workshop, you will be able to:**

- Question UK's local authorities' officials and administrators and trainers on the day-to-day functioning of one of the most efficient local governments in the world; Learn first-hand how local government chairmen, chief executive and elected councillors in the UK relate to each other within the context of constitutional provisions and legislative environment;
- Against the background of developments at Westminster, examine the role and workings of your own local government and consider how to contribute to its improved efficiency;
- Understand the relevant techniques for, and successful management approaches to, Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), Shared Services and Participatory Budget;
- Developing plans that drive better performance in modern local government setting;
- Identifying key management activities and operational functions that will drive modernisation and improve community engagement and widen local participation; and
- Network and explore options for 'twining' with some local authorities in the United Kingdom



Cater& Merger Training/Seminars is an initiative of Cater & Merger Limited, a consultancy company that organizes world-class conferences, training and seminars for business organizations, political organisations, government agencies and professional bodies, in the fields of public and cooperate governance, legislative process , policy formulation/implementation and finally roles of engagement.

It offers first class services to its clients both within and outside the United Kingdom.

It is also dedicated to producing high-quality; strategic business conferences where audience members, speakers and sponsors develop key industry contacts and leave with invaluable knowledge and resources.

Its philosophy is based on achieving the most flexibility, the best quality while promoting sustainability, through change initiatives and dynamics

C&M training and Seminars would work closely with its clients to design bespoke programmes that are sensitive to the context and environment from which clients are from, customising its programme contents to ensure that the client’s training needs are met.

## **Workshop Goal**

The goal is to strengthen capacity of state actors in governance accountability skills that will enhance transparency and accountability in the governance system. It is also dedicated to producing high-quality; strategic business conferences where audience members, speakers and sponsors develop key industry contacts and leave with knowledge and resources. Its Philosophy is based on achieving the most flexibility, the best quality and the most Sustainable.

As part of the efforts to encourage institutional transparency and accountability within State and Non-State institutions, C & M Seminars is proposing this workshop for Nigerian local government administrators. It is believed that this workshop becomes imperative because of the relevance of the third tier to the development of the grassroots; in as much as the third tier is the source of provision of social infrastructure for the people at the grassroots. It is equally aimed at entrenching democracy and ensuring effective and efficient service delivery

to citizens of the state. The representatives of the people must be seen to cooperate to achieve great height in governance and thereby see themselves as partners in duty.

We have the honour to invite you to participate in the upcoming executive workshop with the aim to bring together those interested in applying strategic methodology to solve social challenges in building the nation. This will engage leaders of the local government in discussing global and local government issues and to agree upon collective policies and initiatives.

## **Workshop Objectives**

This workshop seeks to consider the functions of local government, its future role, and to further encourage discussions on their role as: agents for government, for national and local services; strategic leaders for:

- Vision and strategy for their area;
- Empowering communities and citizens;
- joining up services with a view to maximizing linkages.

Enhancing participants understanding of democratic governance and their roles as public office

holders in instituting and sustaining Just and democratic governance in their local Government.

Building participants' capacity on basic economic literacy and budget accountability for local governance; deepening participants understanding on administering project for optimal budget performance; exposing participants to peer exchange with British Local Government Administrators.

## **Rationale**

Local government has come of age and some maturity in the leadership and conduct of government business are expected. It is worthy of note that autonomy is not just devolving powers to local government but also the ability to improve internal revenue generating capacity. It cannot be over-emphasized that allocation of authority to varying sub-units of the polity is the soul of centralization. Therefore authority is about powers, and power is about control of resources, the availability of which determines the quality of lives of the people. Local government should therefore pay attention to the leadership qualities ability to deliver

services and to mobilize human, material and financial resources and the way authority is exercised in the name of autonomy.

There is no nation in the world today without a system of the local government except that the systems differ. It exists as de-concentrated units in some countries whilst they are described as devolution in others.

Local government inevitably has a complex set of roles to play. The following details make the assumption that local government has more than one role and many of the roles overlap and interact. The roles are summarized as follows:

Community and Democratic Leader – representative, advocate, champion and accountable body;

Strategic Leader – setting vision, leading partners, finder of solutions and linker across agencies;

Regulator – licensing, environmental health, planning, trading standards etc.

Tax Collector – business rates and council tax;

Commissioner of Services – for all public services in a locality;

Potential Provider of Services

Scrutiniser – for all public sector agencies in the area;

Assessors and Fulfiller of needs - for personal services; and

Shaper- of the economic and physical development of the area.

It is trite that governance at the local level in Nigeria has been characterized by weak structures and systems that incapacitate accountable and effective service delivery as well as lack of capacity to effectively deliver on the developmental goals and mandate to the citizens.

For local government to function effectively, it must realize its major role in socio-economic environment whilst promoting democracy and participation at the local level. It must think of programs in terms of inputs (resources needed to run the program, e.g., money, facilities, customers, clients, program staff, etc.), process (how the program is carried out, e.g., customers are served, clients are consulted, children are cared for, power supply is generated etc.), outputs (the units of service, e.g., number of customers serviced, number of clients consulted, children cared for, number of power supply generated) and outcomes (impacts on the customers or on clients receiving services, e.g., constant power supply, increased mental health, safe and secure development).

Local government has to support the nation building aims. When it does not, an apparent and valid threat to the nation building foundation presents itself because Local

government/Community Development and Nation Building are closely related concepts; each is primarily concerned with development of the local areas through community effort. However, over the years the two concepts have been institutionally separated.

It is on this premise that we found it imperative to bring together state actors and those aspiring to fall into this class of people to discuss and share ideas on the crucial position of the local government to develop strategies for rural transformation and the delivery of social services to the people.

## **Workshop Methodology**

The workshop will deploy participatory approaches throughout the program. This will include group and individual exercises, presentations from high government officials and academicians, visuals and simulations as well as study visits. Additionally, a social programme is being designed to ensure that delegates coming alone or for the first time will be supported to interact with many other delegates as well as having a great time in a wonderful city.

## **Target Audience**

Participants will be drawn from state and non-state sectors within and outside Government Institutions, which include but not limited to local government chairmen, secretary to the local governments, councillors and leading policy makers.

## **Benefits of participation**

These include but are not limited to the following:

- ☒ Effective staff and better output in service
- ☒ Re-orientation and commitment of staff in organization value
- ☒ Professional Development will bring about new and innovative ideas for the development of the organization.
- ☒ Presentations from high government officials and academicians
- ☒ Skills Training Sessions/ workshops
- ☒ How to make an impact
- ☒ A unique opportunity to network, learn and share knowledge

- ☐ Understanding the role of local government in the new millennium
- ☐ Modern ideas to take home
- ☐ Sustainability
- ☐ One-on-one session with expertise officials
- ☐ Personal interview with Local Government officials here in UK
- ☐ An excellent chance to meet other like-minded people and interview with high profile individuals

## **Program Contents**

Local Government Administration: Concept, Focus and Purpose;

Enhancing Revenue: A Collective Responsibility for All Stakeholders;

Information and Records Management for Effective Fiscal Control and Auditing in Local Government Administration;

Planning, Budgeting, Audit and internal control mechanism in Public Sector Management;

Disaster Control and Crisis Management;

Communication and Public Speaking skills



## **Logistics**

The scope of work is broken down into the following phases:

**Phase 1** – Planning and Logistics (Training Centre, Accommodation and Travelling Arrangements).

Provision of training time tables, conducive training centre, materials, accommodation of delegates.

**Phase II – Delivery and Hospitality (Training, Sightseeing, and relaxation).**

Picking up of delegates from airport to provided accommodation (optional), prior to training start date.

Arrange for delegates sightseeing to places of interest and make sure delegates make the most of their training programme and stay in United Kingdom.

**Phase III – Performance Management and Improvement (Quality Monitoring and Evaluation).**

☑ Delegates will be required to evaluate the workshop performance.

☑ Delegates to review their achievement of set workshop objectives. In conjunction with delegates to consider areas in which they would be trained further.



**Programme Details and Cost**

Duration: Monday 15th – Saturday 20th November 2014

Location: To be confirmed

Workshop cost: £5000.00 (excl. accommodation) £5500.00 (incl. accommodation)

Arrival: Monday 15th November, 2014

Training days: Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th November 2014

Excursion: Friday 19th November 2014

Departure: Saturday 20th November, 2014

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